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# REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, AUDITORS,

AND OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

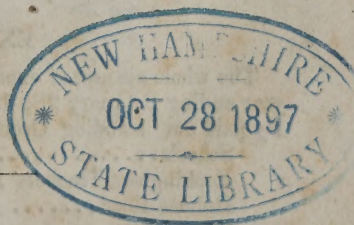
AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

OF THE

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY

1854.



MANCHESTER:

UNION STEAM PRINTING WORKS—CAMPBELL & GILMORE.

1854.

## REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

### RECEIPTS.

The amount of Funds chargeable to the Treasurer for the year ending February 23, 1854, viz :—..... \$4700 48

To balance in the Treasury.....	519 07	
List of State, County, Town and School Tax for the year 1853.....	2376 00	
Non-resident " " .....	393 52	
" " Highway... ..	193 10	
Cash borrowed of William A. Holmes,	59 77	
" " John Gilcreast,....	200 00	
" Received of Literary Fund.....	120 75	
" " from State R. R. tax....	194 31	
" " from Co. of Rockingham,	443 98	
" " for use of Town House,..	2 00	
Interest on Surplus Revenue.....	197 98	<u>\$4700 48</u>

March 1st, 1854. Amount of Surplus Revenue Notes .....		\$3348 00
March 1st, 1853. Amount of Literary Fund notes.....	712 15	
June " Received from the State....	90 04	
March 1, 1854. " Interest of L. F. notes,	42 58	<u>\$844 77</u>
Taken for use of Schools.....		120 95
March 1, 1854, Amount of Literary Fund notes.....		<u>\$724 02</u>

### EXPENDITURES.

The whole amount of expenditures for the year ending February 28, 1854, is.....		\$4314 40
By paid out standing Orders.....	304 75	
Schools.....	950 10	
Rockingham Teachers' Institute.....	21 14	
Holmes Road.....	520 00	
Smith " .....	233 39	
Roads and Bridges.....	115 33	
Non-resident Highway tax in labor....	67 59	
Militia.....	5 00	
Amount carried forward,.....		<u>\$2 217 30</u>

<i>Amount brought forward,</i> .....	\$2 217 30
Town Officers.....	278 19
Interest .....	100 58
Poor at Almshouse.....	16 50
“ out of “ .....	217 55
State and County tax.....	989 98
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	458 63
Abatement on tax list.....	35 71—\$4314 40
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer.....	386 08
	<hr/>
	\$4700 48
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DAVID GILCREAST, JR.,	} Selectmen of Londonderry.
JOHN CAMPBELL,	
JOHN A. PLUMER,	

We have examined the vouchers for the foregoing account of receipts and expenditures for the year ending February 28, 1854, and find them correct.

REID P. CLARK,	} Auditors.
JONATHAN SAVORY,	
WARREN RICHARDSON,	

### EXPENDITURES.

Paid School District No. 1.....	\$136 37
“ “ “ No 2....	116 95
“ “ “ No. 3....	67 33
“ “ “ No. 4.....	87 98
“ “ “ No. 5.....	102 05
“ “ “ No. 6.....	62 75
“ “ “ No. 7.....	85 62
“ “ “ No. 8.....	140 83
“ “ “ No. 9.....	79 46
“ “ “ No. 10.....	15 54
“ “ “ No. 11.....	55 22—\$950 10
“ Rockingham Teachers' Institute .....	21 14

### SMITH ROAD.

Paid Jonathan Hill land damage ..	35 00
“ Gilman Andrews land damage.....	39 00
“ Foster Avery “ “ .....	5 37
“ Thomas Senter, Making Sec. No. 1....	48 00
“ Thomas Boyd, “ “ No. 2....	32 00
“ Samuel Smith, “ “ No. 3....	18 00—\$233 39

## HOLMES ROAD.

Paid A. H. Hoyt for Commissioners' Report,	1 00	
" Geo. H. Taylor & Co., land damage...	195 00	
" William M. Holmes, " " ....	45 00	
" Lucian B. Blake, Making Sec. No. 3..	74 00	
" Matthew Holmes, " " No. 2..	107 00	
" Matthew Holmes, " " No. 1..	117 60	—\$520 00

## ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Samuel Boyce.....	2 00	
" Edward C. Clark.....	13 25	
" Daniel G. Coburn.....	56 00	
" Benjamin F. Wharf.....	1 82	
" Joel Coburn.....	8 87	
" Mason Boyd.....	4 32	
" Joseph Annis.....	1 40	
" John Alexander.....	4 84	
" William M. Boyce . . . . .	1 13	
" Edward C. Clark.....	2 50	
" Alfred Randall.....	9 23	
" Elisha Smith.....	2 50	
" Freeman Corning.....	3 80	—\$115 33

## TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Reid P. Clark, Selectmen services.....	10 84	
Warren Richardson, " " ....	7 33	
Jonathan Savory, " " ....	5 20	
Wm. A. Holmes, Collector " ....	55 00	
Wm. A. Holmes, Treasurer " ....	15 00	
Wm. A. Holmes, Town Clerk " ....	12 00	
David Gilcreast Jr, Selectmen " . . .	49 97	
John Campbell, " " ....	33 24	
John A. Plummer, " " ....	32 70	
Calvin Boyd, Moderator " ....	4 50	
Timothy G. Brainard,—		
Superintendent Committee, " ....	38 83	
D. Gilcreast Jr, select Clerk " ....	10 00	
Warren Richardson, Auditor ....	1 18	
Reid P. Clark, " ....	1 18	
Jonathan Savory, " ....	1 18	—\$278 17
Non-resident Highway tax in labor....		\$67 59

## MILITIA.

Paid David Manter.....	2 00	
Thomas B. Platts.....	2 00	
Charles D. Greeley.....	1 00	— \$5 00

## INTEREST.

Paid John Shipley interest on order.....	3 40	
Town Treasurer " on Surplus Revenue	97 18	—\$100 58

## POOR AT THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid William J. Campbell for 1853.....	12 75	
William H. Martin for 1852.....	3 75	— \$16 50

## POOR NOT AT THE ALMSHOUSE.

Paid Arley Plummer for James Everton....	11 00
John H. Blake for Timothy Dustin....	5 00
Arley Plummer for Savory Bancroft...	19 00
Jonathan C. Coffin for Abigail Coffin...	18 50
William J. Campbell for James Clark..	3 00
Wm. J. Campbell for Savory Bancroft..	15 00
Wm. Smith for Betsey Smith.....	25 00
Wm. H. Martin for Peter Martin.....	54 00
Charles Chase                   "       "       .....	7 61
Reuben White                 "       "       .....	4 72
James Ratray for Pierce.....	2 72
John E. Tyler Treasurer of the N. H. Asylum for the Insane for the sup- port of Mary R. Parker.....	52 00—\$217 55

## STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

Paid County Treasurer.....	624 58	
State Treasurer.....	365 40	—\$989 98

### MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid John Campbell for repairing Town House	\$3 00
Abbott, Jenks & Co. for Town Accounts	20 00
Rockingham Fire Insurance Company..	1 58
A. J. Morse, cutting bushes in graveyard.	4 00
Committee on North Graveyard .....	350 00
Tewksbury & Brother for Book.....	1 50
Wm. Anderson Esq. for taking affidavits	1 50
Wm. Anderson Esq. " " "	2 42
David Gilreast Jr. for stationery.....	1 81
Wm. J. Campbell for Births and Deaths	0 75
Wm. J. Campbell " " "	1 25
Wm. A. Holmes " " "	1 50
John Shipley for Hearse house.....	1 25
David Gilreast Jr. to Exeter for County money.....	5 50
Town Treasurer for Selectmen's note...	61 44
Arley Plummer for Postage.....	1 13—\$458 63

## ABATEMENTS.

Paid William A. Holmes, on list for 1852....	7 54
" " " " " 1853....	26 17
James Pettengill, " " " " ....	1 00
John Harvey, " " " " ....	1 00—\$35 71
Outstanding orders for 1852.....	\$304 40

\$4314 40

The Town of Londonderry in account current, March 1, 1854.	Cr.	
By balance in the Treasurer's hands....		\$386 08
Dr. To due outstanding orders for 1853-4....	\$264 00	
To due Fellows, for land damage.....	50 00—	\$314 00

Leaving a balance in favor of the town, on the foregoing account, of.....		<u>\$72 08</u>
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## DEBTS OF THE TOWN.

FEBRUARY 28, 1854.

To John Gilcreast's note, dated Sept. 9, 1853,	\$200 00	
To borrowed by the Selectmen for 1853.....	200 00	
To Treasurer of West Parish of Londonderry for note dated Sept. 1, 1853, borrowed by the Committee on Graveyard for 1853. ....	140 00	
To John Moore's note, borrowed by the Selectmen for the year 1848. principal and interest. This note has never been in the accounts....	135 50—	\$475 50
Deduct amount in the hands of Treasurer.....		72 08

Amount of debts against the town more than they have funds on hand to pay \$403 42

To Town Treasurer for Town House and Auburn road notes, borrowed from the Surplus Revenue Fund..... \$1619 67

Whole amount of debts against the Town is.... \$2023 09

## INVENTORY OF PROPERTY AT THE ALMS HOUSE,

FEBRUARY 28, 1854. \$733 29

Inventory of property at Alms house Feb. 23, 1853.....	668 99	
Leaving a ballance in favor of 1854 of.....		<u>\$64 30</u>

Credit by cash from County for County Poor.. \$317 75  
 " by balance on books..... 26 00

\$343 75  
 By paid Superintendent one year's salary.... 250 00

\$93 75  
 Deduct amount due from County last year... 33 00

Balance in favor of the Farm..... \$54 75

DAVID GILCREAST, JR.,	} Overseers of the Poor.
JOHN CAMPBELL,	
JOHN A. PLUMER,	

# REPORT

## OF THE

### SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

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The Superintending Committee on public schools in town this year, submit the following as their Report.

We have discharged the duties of our office according to the best of our ability. The teachers in the summer and winter schools have been examined; and all the schools were generally visited twice during each session by some member of the Committee.

The Districts in their numerical order will now be presented.

DISTRICT No. 1.—The Summer School in this District was taught by Miss B. ANN MORSE, of Derry.

Miss M. it is believed, gave general satisfaction to her employers. To the Committee she did not appear to be so active in the school room, nor to possess the faculty of accomplishing so much there as many other teachers. Nor was the order quite so good as a little stricter discipline would have secured. But she gained the good-will of her scholars, and interested most of them in their studies; so that at the closing examination, all the classes furnished evidence of having made fair progress in their studies. A large class in the Multiplication Table, a class in Colburn's Arithmetic, a class in Porter's Rhetorical Reader and the first class in spelling appeared very well.

The Winter School was taught by Mr. CHARLES A. WILSON, of Derry; and a member of the Senior Class in Amherst College.

Mr. W. has had considerable experience in teaching and gave valuable instruction. His health was quite poor when he began his school; and a few complained that he did not accomplish so much as was customary in the winter school. But the impression made on the mind of the Committee at the first was that the instruction in every branch was thorough and accurate, and if not so great in *quantity* it was better in *quality* than usual. This impression was fully confirmed by the appearance of the different classes on examination at the close of the school. All of them appeared well; and several of them, as a class in Colburn's Arithmetic, in Adams' Arithmetic, in Morse's Geography and in spelling, were very prompt and correct in their answers, and had gone through their text books. Considerable attention was paid to writing and good proficiency made in this

important but neglected branch of a good education. The prevalence of the measles in the District made some difference in the regularity and progress of the pupils.

DISTRICT No. 2.—The Summer School in this District was taught by MISS SARAH JANE GILCREAST, of town.

Miss G. is an experienced and very competent teacher both in regard to the instruction and government of her school. The present session was a long one, and toward the close of it her discipline was somewhat relaxed. But the scholars generally made good improvement in their studies; particularly was this the case with a class in Colburn's Arithmetic, Morse's Geography, *all the classes in spelling*. Considerable attention was paid to writing, and commendable proficiency was made in it.

The Winter School was taught by MR. JAMES McQUESTEN, of Litchfield.

It was Ma. McQuesten's first attempt at school-keeping; and as the school was rather a large and difficult one, it was soon manifest, that he was not adequate to the task he had undertaken. In governing his school he threatened and blustered and punished the small scholars for faults he did not even dare to reprove in the larger ones. The larger scholars neither feared nor respected him in school nor out of it. He made his boast at the outset that he should not call in the aid of the Superintending Committee to help him manage his school; for he was competent to the management of it himself. Yet the moment he got into trouble with one of the larger boys, he sent with express haste for the Committee.

He seemed also to lack sound practical sense to guide him in the classification of his scholars and the use of his time. Little girls and boys six and seven years of age were classed in spelling with those of twelve and thirteen years old, who have usually stood several classes in advance of these younger ones. He made but *one* class in Colburn's Arithmetic, putting *beginners* and those who had studied it *several terms* together. The latter ought to have finished the book this winter, but as it was they did not advance so far by several pages as they studied last summer.

At the public examination of those in Adams' Arithmetic he stated that some of them had "*ciphered* nearly through the Book, but *had not learned the rules* any further than the Roots." He frequently omitted the exercise of whole classes and spent his time "in solving problems in Arithmetic" for a few scholars.

An examination of his Register gives us reason to fear that he lacked not only sound judgment, but *sound moral principle* to guide him. He has *falsified* his Register by returning the number of days attendance of nearly every scholar greater than it actually was. As a specimen: He has returned some whom their parents and friends assure us were not in school quite three weeks, as present 44 or 53 days; others who attended but five weeks as present 55 and 57 days,

and others who were absent 10 or 15 days he has marked as absent only 3 or 5 days. Errors may creep into the Register, but facts render it impossible for us to believe, that they have come in here except by design. It is not possible to believe that several scholars could be absent the *whole time* for the last *six weeks* out of eleven of a school and the teacher not know it.

Out of 59 different scholars, he reports that 50 were there *every day*; while the *number of days attendance* he returned makes the *average attendance* 54 13-21. Here is an instance of gross *incompetency*, or gross *dishonesty*. For when the Register was shown to the visitors present the last day of the school, one of the Committee told him that the average of 50 was probably too high; and asked if it was by actual calculation or by guesswork that this number was reached. He replied, "By guesswork." "That won't do, and your Register cannot be accepted till you have made it out according to the directions in the Register." He took back the Register, set down whatever number he pleased as each scholar's attendance; but did not take the trouble to *add up* the number of days attendance and *divide* them by the number of days his school kept. Was he *incompetent* for this exercise of simple addition and division? It was what the Register required him to do. But whether incompetent or not for such an exercise in simple addition and division, after the Prudential Committee told him at the close of the school, that he should not pay him till the Register was made out correctly, was it any thing less than an unmitigated falsehood for him to take the Register to the house of the Prudential Committee the next morning and, in order to get his pay, say that he had made out the Register as required?

It is of the utmost importance that the Register should be correctly kept by every teacher. Yet we are credibly informed by several of the older scholars, that some stormy days when only a few were present, the roll was not called at all, and no absences noted; and that for the last week or more he did not call it or note them. The Superintending Committee are under oath to make a true return of the state of the schools to the Secretary of State at Concord. But they can do so only by the facts drawn from the Registers of the several schools. Can they follow the returns from any district which they know to be false without being themselves guilty of perjury? Moreover would not such false returns incorporated with true ones vitiate their whole report? If one teacher may make *false returns* why may not others also? Should all do this what would the result be but one *great falsehood* given forth to the public in the "Annual Report of the State Board of Education?" Is it to obtain this result that so much time and money are expended to furnish Registers, to require every town to furnish a report of all its public schools, and to require the Board of Education to prepare an Annual Report, and to have a sufficient number of copies published to supply every dis-

trict in the State with a copy? Do not justice, the interests of truth and the public good demand at our hands the exposure of the moral baseness of any teacher who shall deliberately give false returns?

The law attaches so much importance to this matter that no teacher is entitled to any pay for services, until the Register has been correctly made out and is returned to the Committee. Whoever serves as Prudential Committee should understand this point and act accordingly.

DISTRICT No. 3. (ANDERSON.)—The Summer School was taught by Miss MARTHA S. HUNT, of Charlestown.

She was young and inexperienced and was so embarrassed as not to appear well at her examination. Fears were entertained by the Committee that her attempt to keep the school would prove a failure. But on trial she did remarkably well. Good order was maintained and all the classes appeared well. Several of her classes excelled in their exercises; as the second class in reading, the first class in Grammar and a class of beginners in Colburn's Arithmetic.

The Winter School was kept by Mr. NOAH O. ROBINSON, of Hudson.

Mr. R. has had some experience in teaching and succeeded well in the government and instruction of his pupils. This school was visited but once by the Committee and then the several classes appeared well, especially a class in Emerson's Arithmetic and a class in Adams' Arithmetic. Attention was paid to reading, writing and spelling. The Committee was notified of the close of this school. It was on Friday, Dec., 30th, the next day after the severe snow-storm and wind—and the roads were impassable.

DISTRICT No. 4. (WOODBURN.)—The Summer School was taught by Miss SARAH E. LAWRENCE, of Merrimack.

Miss L. succeeded well in the management of this school. She was mild yet firm and energetic in the government of it, and accurate in the instruction given. Several of the classes in reading were very good. The first class in Colburn's Arithmetic had gone through the Book and appeared to have made thorough work; and a class in Grammar appeared well, both as to a knowledge of principles and the application of them to parsing.

Several very neat Writing Books were shown which evinced a good degree of skill, and improvement in penmanship.

The Winter School was taught by Mr. WILLIAM J. NUTT, of Nashua.

Mr. N. brings to his work of conducting a school experience and judgment and skill. He maintained excellent order without recourse to severe or harsh measures; and secured the good will of his pupils while he kept them under admirable subjection. His instruction was unusually thorough. His object was to make his scholars understand everything as they went along and to go no faster nor further than they went well.

The classes on examination had all of them made fair progress in their studies, especially the first class in Adams' and Colburn's Arithmetic, the third class in Reading, and the second class in spelling.

It is with pleasure that we can, in all good conscience, make so favorable a report both of the Summer and Winter School in this District.

DISTRICT No. 5.—The Summer School was taught by Miss MARTHA FORSAITH, of Auburn.

It was Miss F.'s first effort at school-keeping; and we think that she is one whom age and experience as a teacher will greatly benefit. Some of her classes appeared very well, while generally there seemed to be a lack of thoroughness of instruction and especially of discipline.

The Winter School in this District was begun by Mr. JONATHAN McALLISTER of this town.

In the early part of it when the school was visited it was doing very well. But sickness in the family of the teacher interrupted it, and finally and unexpectedly, closed it, when it was a little more than two-thirds through. Mr. McAllister possesses the talent of accomplishing a good deal of work in the school-room and at the same time of doing it well.

DISTRICT No. 6. (COMING.)—There was no Summer School taught in this District.

The Winter School was taught by Miss SARAH JANE GILCREAST, of town. This was a small school and for want of other accommodations was kept in the room of a private dwelling-house. This school appeared well on examination. Some of the older pupils had completed Adams' Arithmetic; and here were exhibited some of the best Writing Books we saw in any school in town.

DISTRICT No. 7. (WHITE'S.)—The Summer School was taught by Miss CAROLINE L. GAMBLE of Manchester.

Miss G. was young and had never taught before; but she was very well qualified in respect to her education. She appeared efficient in the school room, active and energetic, maintaining good order and evincing an aptness to teach. Most of the scholars in the district are young. There was a class of *seven* in the Alphabet, and *nine* others were in words of one syllable or in very easy reading. A class in Morse's Geography appeared well. When the school was visited at its close almost all the larger scholars were absent. Miss G. taught a private school of a few weeks after the close of her public school.

The Winter School was taught by Mr. HENRY S. WHEELER, of Derry.

It was Mr. W.'s first experience in school-keeping. He passed a very good examination in the branches required to be taught; but the discipline of his school when first visited was rather lax. But the order instead of growing worse, as is often the case, rather improved, and at the close it was tolerably good. The scholars are for the most

part young and backward; but some of them had made very fair improvement. Some attention was paid to writing. A new school house is *greatly* needed in this district.

DISTRICT No. 8. (DOW.)—There were two teachers in the Summer School in this district—Miss ALNORA F. PERVIER, and Miss SARAH H. GOODWIN, both of town.

After about two weeks Miss P. resigned her charge on account of ill-health. It is believed that she gave good satisfaction while she continued in the school.

Miss G. has had considerable experience in teaching, and is amply qualified in respect to education to impart correct and valuable instruction. But she is rather too easy in the government of her school, to secure the order necessary to be maintained in a large school. It is believed that her employers were very well pleased with her school. There are not accommodations in the house for the large number of scholars sent to it.

The Winter School was taught by Mr. SAMUEL GILCREAST—one of the Superintending Committee of town.

The school was visited but once by the other member of the Committee in the latter part of the school. The number of scholars present was not large at the time. The school was very orderly and the exercises of the several classes evinced that they had been well instructed.

The attendance on this school both Summer and Winter was very irregular; and several in the district of proper age to attend school did not go at all during the year. The district is very large both in point of territory and number of scholars; while the house is very small and old and uncomfortable in every respect. This district receives more money for school purposes than any other district; and we cannot name a district in town, which in our opinion has for years past derived so little benefit from its money.

DISTRICT No. 9. (MANTER.)—The Summer School was taught by Miss LYDIA A. N. WEBSTER of Derry.

Miss W. has had a good deal of experience in teaching school, and is very well qualified to impart correct and valuable instruction. The school is small and easily governed. The number in attendance was diminished by the spread of the hooping-cough through the district. At the close of the school only 12 were present; but they recited quite a number of different lessons, and had made more than usual improvement in their studies.

The Winter School was taught by Mr. ANDREW L. TAYLOR of town.

Mr. T. was a beginner, and acted wisely in going into a small and easily managed school to make his first attempt at teaching. His school was visited but once as neither member of the Committee received any notice of the day when it would close. When visited the school appeared remarkably well both as to the character of its gov-

ernment and instruction. It then gave so fair promise of being a good school, that the Committee regret the want of an opportunity to be present at its close.

DISTRICT No. 10.—This is a very small district—or only part of district. It adjoins No. 3, [Aiken Range] in Derry, and the scholars in No. 10, go to the house in No. 3, Derry.

Both the Summer and Winter School was taught by Miss MARY JANE CHOATE; and for the first time it has been correctly and seasonably reported to your Committee by a Register duly made out by the teacher.

DISTRICT No. 11.—The Summer School was taught by Miss MIRA T. WILLIAMS, of town.

It was we believe Miss W.'s first attempt at teaching school and she succeeded very well. She gained the good will of her pupils, and so interested them in their studies that they made fair improvement in them. A class in Geography and Grammar had learned correctly as far as they had gone in their books; and some of the smaller scholars had made rapid progress in reading. Her discipline was not such as to secure so good order as is desirable.

The Winter School was taught by Mr. HOSEA B. EMERY of Derry.

It was Mr. E.'s first attempt at school-keeping, and his present effort was not very successful. His literary qualifications were barely passable; his aptness to teach very small and his power to govern feeble and insufficient to command the respect and obedience of the older scholars.

There was a sad lack of judgment evinced in classifying the scholars, and in appropriating all his time to the greatest benefit of his school. The school dwindled very much toward the last of it: and it was not visited at the close by either member of the Committee, because neither of them knew the day when it ended. It was however visited twice by the Committee, and the second time near the close of it, and only five scholars were then present. Several of the older boys were amusing themselves at sliding on some ice near the school house; and they rather discourteously declined all invitations and orders from the teacher to come into school that afternoon.

### GENERAL REMARKS.

SCHOOL HOUSES.—No new School House has been built during the year. The one in District No. 11, was repaired last year *out side* so that it now presents a very respectable appearance. There is no house in district No. 6;—only apologies for one in Districts No. 7 and 8; and only very poor ones in Districts No. 2 and 3. There are at least *five* new school houses greatly needed in town,—some of them are *indispensably necessary*. Only a single School House in town has any out-buildings of any kind. No decent *private* family

does without such buildings; and no decent *public* family, as our schools are, should be without them.

SCHOOLS.—Our schools were not so good, taken as a whole, this year as they have usually been. Several causes have operated to produce this result. Sickness has prevailed in some of the districts; as the measles and hooping cough, which thinned the schools and interrupted the progress of the scholars. Four of the schools were suspended for a longer or shorter time on account of the sickness of the teachers or their family.

The severity of the Winter in intensenets of cold, hard storms and bad roads, and miserable school-houses, have rendered the attendance very irregular. Poor teachers have exerted their full share of influence in producing such a result.

The great variety of text-books found in our schools operates very unfavorably upon the prosperity of our schools in many ways. It wastes the teacher's time by increasing the number of classes; and it prevents the spirit of emulation which can easily be excited in a class of several pursuing the same study.

Your Committee have recommended a set of books for use in our schools; and we have not yet seen good cause to make any material alteration. We have not followed the series of books recommended by the State Board of Education; nor can we do this unless we are prepared to *change frequently*. The County Commissioner informed us, at the time of his visit here last January, that the series of *Reading Books* recommended last year was disapproved of by the best educators in the State; and that these would probably be dropped, and some others recommended in their stead. But in this town it is the *work of years* to get an *old set of books out* of the school and to get *new ones in*; and then perhaps the ones introduced are not equal to those they have supplanted. But if you keep up with the times, or rather with the *publishers*, you will not have fairly established the new ones, when you will be called upon to lay them aside and try something else. It would be an easy matter for the Committee to recommend a different series every year, but such a course would be deemed extravagant and unreasonable. As it now is, however, things are really worse for the schools through the introduction into them, by a few scholars, of several different kinds of reading books, spelling books, arithmetics, geographies, and grammars, than an entire change would produce. Besides the Bible, there are now found as reading books, five of Russell's series, two or three of Town's series, Porter's Rhetorical Reader, some of Swan's series, Young Reader, Mrs. Taylor's Reader, Grammar School Reader, and several smaller books for beginners. In geographies: Parley's, Morse's, two or three kinds each of Mitchell's and Smith's.

#### SUPERINTENDING AND PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.

The duties of these two Committees are intimately connected with each other, yet still they are distinct, and neither should invade the province of the other.

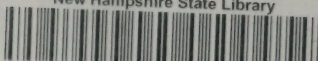
It is the duty of the Prudential Committee to select and engage the teacher; and he should bear in mind that good teachers are to be *sought for*, and will rarely be found *seeking after* employment. It should also be borne in mind that good teachers are usually engaged *early*; and that if the hiring of a teacher be put off till near the time of commencing school, generally none but second or third or fourth rate teachers are to be found. The Prudential Committee should also take into the account in procuring a teacher several considerations of great importance to the welfare of the school, of which the Superintending Committee can take no notice. Has he had any experience in teaching? is he a good scholar? has he sound, practical, common sense? and does he possess firmness, and decision, and energy of character, and kindness of feelings? These are important considerations, and the Prudential Committee should endeavor to ascertain whether the teacher possesses them. All that the Superintending Committee can do is to examine the persons who present themselves as candidates, and then decide upon their literary qualifications. The only question for them to answer is, Has each one of the candidates sustained a sufficient examination? This question must be answered, "Yes," or "No." They have no right to say to any candidate, "You have passed a satisfactory examination; but we don't think that you are a fit person for that school, and therefore we cannot license you." Such, in many instances, is our candid opinion. But to exercise the power of enforcing this opinion would be the usurpation of a power which does not belong to us; and would be an act of injustice both to the teacher and the Prudential Committee. For had the Prudential Committee thought him to be an unfit person, he would not have hired him; and the teacher, too, might have found employment elsewhere.

The Superintending Committee have endeavored, by a careful examination, to shut out teachers incompetent in point of learning. But experience has taught them the impossibility of giving skill and efficiency and judgment to govern and instruct a school to those who do not possess and bring these qualifications to their work.

A good deal of error seems to prevail relative to the *visitorial* powers and duties of the Superintending Committee.

If trouble arises between the teacher and scholar; or between the teacher and members of the district; it is not the duty of the Committee to interfere unless especially called in. It all may be settled without any of their interference. If called in they should go as impartial Judges, give each party a fair hearing and then endeavor to decide the matter according to truth and justice. They should never act the part of *prosecutors* as well as *judges*.

Many seem to think that if there is any dissatisfaction on the part of the district, or of individuals towards a teacher, all that is necessary to be done, is to give this notice to the Superintending Committee; and that then they are bound to commence an action against the teacher on this informal notice and to look up the evidence to sustain the action.



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While others seem to imagine that the Committee should proceed forthwith to dismiss the teacher by the most summary process ; because *they* consider him an unsuitable person to have charge of the school. But if the Committee are bound to do thus, then they are bound to become the mere tools of others.

The truth is, that while the Committee has powers, these powers are limited by law ; and they have no right to act the part of arbitrary tyrants, "whom they would to slay and whom they would to keep alive." The *teacher* has *rights* which the Superintending Committee should never invade. His character and reputation are at stake ; and the law secures to him a fair and impartial trial, by requiring that notice previously be given him *in writing* of the time and place of meeting and of the charges alleged against him.

Let then no disaffected individuals suppose that on a naked complaint by them against any teacher, that the Committee will proceed against such teacher as both *prosecutor and judge*. But let them take a proper course and they shall be heard and the teacher dealt with as the law directs.

It is feared that some of our schools are becoming *moral pest houses* on account of the prevalence in them of obscene and vulgar and profane language. We know that many of our best citizens feel that they cannot, without great danger to the morals of their children and great guilt on their part subject their children to such pernicious influences. We have reason to believe that those who feel that the *moral cultivation* of their children is at least as important as the *intellectual*, will sooner keep them from school than expose them to such contamination. But should this be done then our schools will become a place of resort for only the vicious. The teachers have been strictly charged to watch over the *morals* of their pupils ; and, if they did not punish them for any thing else, to punish them for lying or stealing or fighting or swearing. Parents and guardians of the young should also second the efforts of teachers in this matter ; or we are confident that many will keep their children away from our public schools entirely.

#### REGISTERS.

The Registers are now ready to be delivered to the Clerks of the several Districts, by whom they are required to be carefully preserved.—There are some facts which Prudential Committees should furnish every teacher and see that they are entered in the Register before it is returned to the Superintending Committee. They should also ascertain that each teacher has correctly made out the Register before the wages are paid.

TIMOTHY G. BRAINERD,	} Superintending School Committee.
SAMUEL GILCREAST,	